

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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TOWN COUNCIL.

FIREMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE INTRODUCED.

Electric Light Contract will be discussed on the 25th—Sidewalk Matters Under Consideration—Reduction in Financial Indebtedness—Siren Whistle Will Go.

The Town Council for the year 1906 held its first business session on Monday night. The public part of the proceedings was brief. Fred M. Davis, the new member from the Second Ward, met in the place formerly occupied by Dr. W. F. Harrison. Otherwise the arrangement of Councilmen was unchanged from that of last year. Town Clerk Johnson read the minutes of the organization meeting held on Monday, January 1.

Councilman Chabot's initial act as chairman of the fire committee was the introduction of an ordinance allowing active members of the fire department who make a record of sixty per cent. of fire duty in a year \$12 per annum compensation. Mr. Chabot in a brief speech extolled the firemen, and said that it gave him pleasure to introduce a measure that provided some compensation for their services. Under one provision of Mr. Chabot's ordinance firemen who do not average fifty per cent. of fire duty in the course of a year are dropped from the roll of the department.

Councilman Farrand questioned the validity of that provision and asked the attorney if it was permissible for the Council to carry out such a provision. The attorney said it was within the province of the Council to make rules and regulations for the government of the fire department.

Councilman Farrand stated that as the ordinance was only on first reading he would defer discussion of the point he raised until later on, and the ordinance passed first reading.

Councilman Green, chairman of the lighting committee, reported that he and his colleague Mr. Murray had the lighting contract under advisement, but had no recommendation to make, and he asked that when the Council adjourned it adjourn to Monday evening, the 29th inst., for the purpose of giving the lighting contract special consideration.

Councilman Davis of the sidewalk committee asked what the method of procedure was in regard to sidewalks that were in bad order.

Mayor Fisher replied that it was up to the sidewalk committee to bring such matters before the Council with recommendations. The talk on sidewalks reminded the mayor that he had received letters complaining about people not removing the snow from their sidewalks on the occasion of a recent light snowfall, and he notified the chairman of the police committee to remind the policemen of the ordinance in regard to cleaning sidewalks.

The bond of William E. Raab as member of the Board of Assessors was received and approved. Peter J. Quinn was appointed to serve on the Orange street sidewalk improvement assessment on account of one of the members of the Board of Assessors being interested in property affected by the assessment.

The clerk notified the Council that it was in order to name an official paper for the town, and on motion of Councilman Green the Bloomfield CITIZEN was named as the official paper.

Clerk Johnson inquired what method the Council intended to pursue in making up the annual town report. He wanted to know if the several sub-committees were to give special attention to their respective departments, or if he should go ahead and compile the report.

Councilman Murray said that "brevity and directness" were the essentials of the report, and the clerk was authorized to go ahead with the work.

A copy of the new form of exempt firemen's certificate was shown to the Councilmen by the clerk.

Councilman Green reported that he had had a conference with the Consolidated Safety Pin Company officials in regard to the siren whistle that was a source of so much complaint. Mr. Green said the siren would be displaced by another whistle less annoying.

Town Treasurer Harry L. Osborne asked to be authorized to retire \$3,300 of short-term sewer bonds and to pay the interest due on other bond issues and also retire a school bond.

Death of George Turner.

George Turner, aged 83 years, well known in the second district of the Third Ward, died on Monday night at the home of his son-in-law, Michael J. Higgins, with whom he resided many years. Previous to coming to the town Mr. Turner lived in Monticello, New York. He is survived by two children. The funeral service took place Thursday morning in the Church of the Sacred Heart.

Church Services.

Dr. C. S. Woodruff will occupy his pulpit as usual at both services on Sunday. The topic for the morning service will be "The Secret things which belong to God and the revealed things which belong to men." The evening subject, "Baking our own Spirit."

St. Paul's parish, East Orange, will next Wednesday, January 24, the eve of the feast of the conversion of St. Paul, observe its name day by a special service at 7:45 P. M., at which the preacher will be Rev. W. B. Baer, rector of St. George's Church, Brooklyn. After the service an informal reception will be held in the parish house, when Rev. Charles S. Oakley, the new rector of Grace Church, Orange, will be introduced to St. Paul's parishioners and make an address.

Services at the Watessing M. E. Church to-morrow will be as follows: Devotional meeting, 9:30 A. M.; preaching, 10:30 A. M., subject, "Sparing the Rod"; Sunday-school, 2:30 P. M.; Epworth League, 6:45 P. M., subject, "Spirit-filled Life," leader, Mr. Ira Smith; preaching service, 7:30 P. M., subject, "A God Man's Choice."

The Missionary Society will give a tea in the Sunday-school Chapel Thursday evening to begin at 6 P. M. An entertainment will be rendered during the evening.

Firemen's Meeting.

Members of the several companies of the fire department met in Central Firehouse Tuesday night and discussed ways and means of increasing the relief fund of the Firemen's Relief Association. Seymour P. Gilbert of Essex Truck Company presided, and Adolph Weimar acted as secretary. Former Chief T. Howell Johnson addressed the meeting on the subject of the relief fund. It was decided to hold a three nights' fair next April, and committees from each fire company and all the societies connected with the fire department were appointed to make arrangements for the fair.

Basket-Ball.

The High School basketball team played a double-header with the Brookside School on the courts of the latter last Saturday afternoon and succeeded in winning both. The scores were 15 to 5 and 38 to 7. A general reception followed. Basketball will now be a feature among the scholars in the different schools. On February 5 the High School five will play the East Orange, and on February 9 the girls' basketball team of Passaic will play the girls' team of the local High School.

In Jail for Non-Payment of Poll Tax.

George Haller, forty years old, of Pompton Turnpike, Cedar Grove, has been arrested and imprisoned in the county jail because he neglected to pay his poll tax of one dollar for the year 1903. Special Deputy Tax Collector William Bogan, who was appointed to that position on Monday by Tax Collector Frank C. Gobie of Verona township, who is making unusual efforts to collect delinquent taxes by threatening arrests, took Haller into custody after the latter had expressed his inability to pay the dollar charged against him on the township books.

It is Bogan's intention, after he has cleared up the 1903 poll tax account for the township, to start on those who have been delinquent in 1904, and afterward take up the 1905 accounts. He says he is acting under instructions from Mr. Gobie.

Handsome Chickens.

Dr. Jacob S. Wolfe exhibited a number of silver spangled Hamburg chickens at the Boston poultry show, which went to the Madison Square Garden show, is the largest in the country. Dr. Wolfe also exhibited a group of silver spangled Hamburgs at the Stamford, Conn., poultry show, and won the silver cup offered by the mayor of that city for the best display of that breed of fowls.

Struck By Trolley.

A team of horses and wagon belonging to Samuel Grimshaw, the expressman, and driven by a colored man named Randolph was struck by a trolley car at a late hour Tuesday night on Bloomfield avenue near the city line. The wagon was a long reach one used for carrying iron girders. Randolph was on his way home and the trolley car smashed into the wagon from the rear. The driver was injured, and one of the horses was so badly hurt that it had to be killed.

Mr. Baldwin's Lecture.

The illustrated lecture entitled "Search for the North Pole, or Life in the Great White World," given Monday night in the First Presbyterian Church by Evelyn Baldwin, interested a large audience. Mr. Baldwin showed a collection of fine garments worn in the region of the north pole. The lecture was a practical one and was an instructive discourse on one of the problems of navigation that has as yet baffled venturers and explorers from Europe and this country.

"THE MESSIAH."

Handel's Great Oratorio Will be Sung Next Tuesday Night in Jarvis Memorial Hall—A Fine Musical Treat Promised—Last Year's Excellent Presentation to be Equalled.

The people of this town will have an opportunity to enjoy a musical treat in Jarvis Memorial Hall next Tuesday evening, the 23d inst., when Handel's great oratorio, "The Messiah," will be sung by a large chorus, assisted by an orchestra of twenty musicians and the following talented soloists: Miss Marie F. Stoddard, soprano; Mrs. Robert Strange, contralto; Paul F. Handel, tenor; Clark G. Dalley, baritone. Arthur A. Ellor will conduct the oratorio and Dr. Howe will preside at the organ. The price of admission is 50 and 75 cents, and seats can be secured at George M. Wood's drug store, 20 Broad street.

This oratorio was sung under the same direction and by many of the same singers in Jarvis Memorial Hall on January 13, 1905. There was a large audience present, and but very few of the large number present had any anticipation of the agreeable and gratifying surprise in store for them. Instead of a merely friendly appreciation, the audience was propelled to frequent demonstrations of enthusiastic applause.

Out of town papers were represented by specialists in the line of musical criticism, and the day following the concert one paper said: "An agreeable surprise awaited many who attended the performance of 'The Messiah' in the Jarvis Memorial Hall in Bloomfield last night, and who were unacquainted with the musical resources of that community. The interpretation of Handel's great oratorio was so creditable and provided so much enjoyment for the large audience taxing the seating capacity of the fine and spacious hall that all concerned in securing the admirable results, as well as the music lovers benefiting by the labors of singers and musicians, are to be congratulated on the success of the undertaking. The accomplishment was so worthy and furnished such convincing evidence of the talent available in Bloomfield for artistic efforts of this kind that much pleasure may be expected from similar ministrations if those whose well-doing on this occasion inspired confidence in their ability to continue their good work."

Another paper said: "The noble work was finely sung, and the applause throughout the evening was cordial and spontaneous. The chorus work was smooth, round and full, for the most part, and reflected much credit both upon the singers and Mr. Ellor, under whose painstaking direction the rehearsal had been held. After the concert many persons said they hoped the combined choruses would give the oratorio each Christmas hereafter."

Many people from out of town expressed the highest satisfaction with the production. While it is pleasing to all who were interested in the concert arrangements to have it meet with favorable commendation from out of town, the warm and unstinted praise bestowed upon it by the people here is a source of greater satisfaction.

It is anticipated that next Tuesday evening's presentation of the oratorio will surpass in excellence the work of last year. Many of the singers are more familiar with the music, and there has been a better attendance at the rehearsals.

Borough Report.

The report of the borough of Glen Ridge from March 1 to December 31 was submitted to the people on Tuesday. It shows the government there to be in good condition. Former Mayor Brewer says that the bonded debt has been decreased by the payment of \$1,000 road bonds and \$2,000 lateral sewer bonds, bringing the total debt down to \$154,000, or \$26,000 less than it was three years ago.

The appropriations recommended for the year are as follows: Police, \$3,000; fire department, \$1,920; repair of streets and sidewalks, \$4,000; stone roads, \$1,000; top dressing of roads, \$2,000; water for extinguishing fires, \$2,800; street lighting, \$4,000; maintenance and operation of sewer system, \$450; interest on road improvement bonds, \$3,175; interest on park bonds, \$1,400; interest on outlet sewer bonds, \$1,430; principal of road bonds, \$1,480; incidentals, \$2,295; total, \$30,000. This is a reduction of \$470 from last year.

The tax duplicate for the year was \$61,105.74; the amount of uncollected taxes for the ten years of the borough's existence amount to \$23,007.51. There is due in taxes from 1905 over \$16,000.

Prohibition and Why.

The second in the course of free lectures in W. C. T. U. Hall, near Dodd and Prospect streets, East Orange, will take place Thursday evening, February 1, when the Rev. A. Sterling Barnes will be the lecturer, and his subject will be "Prohibition and Why."

THOMAS HOFF'S DEATH

New Appears to Be Due to Murder Instead of Accident—Charles Basanik New in Jail Charged with the Crime—Circumstances Point Strongly to the Man's Guilt.

If the alleged confession of Frank Basanik and Mary H. Hoff in relation to the death of Thomas Hoff are substantiated, a most revolting crime was committed here on the night of January 7. Basanik and Mrs. Hoff are both in the county jail awaiting the action of the grand jury.

On the night of January 7 the crew of the late freight train on the Lackawanna Railroad reported to Policeman John Blum that the train had run over a man just beyond Second River bridge towards Watessing. Officer Blum asked how badly the man was hurt and the railroad men said he was dead and terribly out of shape.

Two officers went to the police station and got a blanket, and with the assistance of the train men gathered up the mutilated body in it and took the remains to the Glenwood avenue station. The clothing was searched for some mark of identification, and in a small memorandum book the name of Thomas Hoff was found.

Policeman Blum went to the Hoff home, No. 1 Henry street, and inquired about Hoff, and when the officer learned that he was not home he told Mrs. Hoff what had happened and asked her to go to the railroad station with him. She did so and identified the body as that of her husband.

The woman manifested no particular emotion over her husband's death. Police inquiry about the case resulted in learning that Hoff had been on a spree from Saturday noon, when he was seen at the Sprague Electric Works and had been drinking heavily all day Sunday, and the last heard of him alive was when he met a fellow employee at the Sprague Works on Glenwood avenue after midnight Sunday night and started for Watessing with him.

It was surmised that he fell on the railroad track and in a drunken stupor went to sleep there, and the case was put down as an accidental death.

Hoff was a Polisher and came here from Bound Brook. His tragic death occasioned much talk among his fellow countrymen here, and this talk resulted in Chief of Police Collins learning three things. One was that Basanik, who was a border at Hoff's house, was an acquaintance of Mrs. Hoff and that she was unduly intimate with him. The second was that on the Sunday Hoff was killed Basanik and Hoff were in a saloon together in Newark and Basanik made a wager with Hoff as to which could drink the most liquor, and after the wager was taken up Basanik made an arrangement with the bartender by which he, Basanik, was to be supplied with water, while gin was to be served to Hoff. It was also learned that Basanik was with Hoff at a late hour Sunday night and started for home with him from a Glenwood avenue house.

Two Watessing men who were walking along the track shortly before Hoff's body was found said that they passed two drunken men struggling to climb the railroad embankment. These two men when they got as far as Poloubet street heard some shout, and when they looked back the two men they had passed were on the railroad track.

Chief Collins sent Officer Blum to Newark to investigate the saloon story, and the officer found it to be true. The county physician's office was notified by Chief Collins that circumstances connected with Hoff's death and investigation had been committed. The county physician's office notified the county prosecutor's office, and Prosecutor Young sent County Detective Michael Vetta to the local police headquarters to investigate the case.

Chief Collins and the county detective went over the case together and decided to take Basanik into custody, and Officer Blum and the detective went to the Hoff home and arrested Basanik and locked him up in the local jail. The officer and detective went back to Mrs. Hoff and questioned her about her husband's death. By implying that Basanik had made a confession of the crime the official caused Mrs. Hoff to confess that Basanik had told her that he had killed her husband and left his body on the railroad track where it would be run over by a train, and she threatened her that if she ever told about it he would kill her. Basanik, Mrs. Hoff said, was to marry her and help care for her family of five small children.

After securing Mrs. Hoff's version of the crime the officers went back to the jail and confronted Basanik with the evidence against him. Basanik confessed that he had killed Hoff by striking him on the head with a lead mallet that he brought from Edison's factory in West Orange, where he was employed.

He carried the mallet with him for the purpose of killing Hoff. His motive

was his infatuation for Mrs. Hoff. The drinking wager in the Newark saloon was a part of the murder plot. He piloted Hoff to the railroad track, struck him on the head with the lead mallet, left the body on the track, and went home and told Mrs. Hoff what he had done.

When the county detective reported the result of his investigation to the prosecutor, that official ordered Mrs. Hoff taken into custody also, and that the overseer of the poor take charge of the children. The youngest child, a seventeen-month-old infant, is with its mother. The other four children are in the town house.

Basanik seems to be indifferent to his fate. Before going to jail he requested Officer Blum to convey word to his people in Europe that he was ill, and if he hung for this affair, he wanted them to be led to believe that he died from his illness.

Basanik is 36 years of age and has lived with the Hoff family about a year and a half.

High School Plays.

The High School Association is preparing to present two plays, "The Fatal Message" a one-act farce, and "The Irish Linen Peddler," a three-act musical comedy. Rehearsals for the presentation are progressing finely. More than ordinary interest is taken by the students in the play this year, owing perhaps to the fact that the Glee Club is to take part.

The several choruses to be sung by the Glee Club have been rehearsed several times and have been found to be extremely catchy. There are also to be some solos by different members of the club. One of the principal ones to be sung by Miss Cornelia Fitch, who as it will be remembered was such a success years before last in "Box and Cox."

The management has decided that dancing is to be fifty cents extra, on Friday night, February 23. Gentlemen who are patrons of the play will be charged this extra fifty cents and they have the liberty of bringing partners free of charge.

Empire Theatre.

Perhaps the most important, and certainly one of the most attractive, engagements at the Empire Theatre, Newark, this winter is that of "Fantana," the great musical comedy success in which Jefferson De Angella and his company will be seen at that playhouse for the week beginning Monday, January 22, with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. This is the very first opportunity that the Mercer Shubert have been able to find to present "Fantana" in this vicinity, owing to its year in New York city and five months in Chicago. "Fantana" comes to Newark with all the wealth of its superb original scenic investiture and with the complete original cast in support of Mr. De Angella. It is said to be the last word in stage management, and it is also said that so much money has never before been lavished upon any musical production of the kind. The prices at the matinees will range from twenty-five cents to one dollar.

Miss Marie Stoddard.

Miss Marie Stoddard, who is to sing the soprano solos in "The Messiah" at Jarvis Hall next Tuesday evening, is a very popular young singer, and has in a very few years built up a fine reputation in concert, oratorio and church work. She has a strong, sweet voice of great range, and she sings with taste and intelligence. Miss Stoddard was for three years soloist at the Brick Presbyterian Church, East Orange. She left that church to take a much more important position in the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn. Miss Stoddard sang in the "Messiah" two years ago in Watessing with great satisfaction to all who had the pleasure of hearing her.

Glen Ridge Golf Club Election.

At the annual meeting of the Glen Ridge Golf Club on Monday night these governors were elected: Eugene Leroy Cadmus, Harry D. Smith, Fritz Lindenmeyr, David H. Standish, Frank Goodwillie, Frank Hemmingsway, Harry N. Reeves and Albert T. Benedict. Henry M. Edwards, secretary for several years, retired, as also did Ward Thomas, the vice-president. Their successors will be chosen at a meeting to be held next week. The club is in a good condition financially, having paid \$1,000 on its new ground. The present membership is 154.

Change in Name.

Garth Circle No. 19, Brotherhood of the Union of America, has been officially notified that from now on the order will be known as the Brotherhood of America, the words "of the union" being omitted. This action was taken by the supreme council of the order held last October in New York city, as it was thought the title of the order, which is a beneficiary one, was misleading.

BOARD OF HEALTH

HELD ITS FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR THURSDAY NIGHT.

Dr. Ward, Chairman of the Board, Named the Standing Committee—Nuisance Complaints Submitted by Inspector Gilbert—Water Supply in Excellent Condition.

The January meeting of the Board of Health was held Thursday night. The two new members of the board, Charles A. Keyser and Harry White, were present. Dr. Ward, chairman of the board, named the following standing committees: Sanitary, Thompson and Bitts; Finance and Supplies, White and Bitts; Infectious and Contagious Diseases, Ward, Keyser and Thompson; Complaints, Bitts and White; Food and Drink, Keyser and Thompson.

The appointive officers of the board will be named at the March meeting. Inspector Gilbert submitted Chemist Baldwin's analytical report of the condition of the water supply. The report showed an excellent condition of the water.

The inspector reported that he had made a recent inspection of the Brooks Home for Colored Orphan Children in Glenwood avenue and found that the directions of the Board of Health in regard to sanitary improvements had been complied with. At the home it was said that the fault was due to the neglect of the managers, and that the institution was about to go under new management. The matter was referred to the sanitary committee.

The impression is gaining ground that the Brooks Home is not a genuine charity, and that it is being used for the private gain of some individuals. A thorough investigation of the institution should be made.

Spragg's block, Glenwood avenue, was again a source of complaint on account of the water closets. Inspector Gilbert brought to the attention of the board a peculiar condition of affairs in the Newark avenue brick row.

When the town assumed control of the water plant, among the places where a great wastage of water was found was the Newark avenue brick row. The water department put meters in the building, and the water bill ran up to nearly half the amount received by the owner in rent from his tenants. The owner put off the water supply with the exception of one hydrant, which the tenants were to use in common. Harborty is the exception among the tenants in the row, and it is not likely that a common hydrant will be a success there. The procedure on the part of the owner has led to some sanitary difficulties, which the Board of Health will take cognizance of.

Several other complaints made to the inspector were laid before the board by that official.

A number of bills were passed upon by the board and ordered paid.

In appointing Harry White of the Second Ward as chairman of the finance and supplies committee, it is believed that the chairman of the board has made an excellent selection from a business standpoint. Mr. White has the reputation of a rigid economist in public expenditures, and is a man who is not afraid to speak his mind when occasion requires.

Master Builders' Association.

The eleventh quarterly convention of the Master Builders' Association of New Jersey will be held in Washington Hall, Fayette street, Perth Amboy, Wednesday, January 24 at two o'clock in the afternoon. The business of the convention will be the election of officers, consideration of the report of the legislative committee and discussion of the new by-laws.

Hugh D. King of this town is president of the association, and many leading builders in the State are numbered in the membership. The association had in January 1,250 members, and 37 associations in eight counties. It is expected that the Perth Amboy meeting will show a large increase in membership.

Floor Gave Way.

Mrs. Anna Ward of 14 Washington street was painfully hurt at her home last Saturday afternoon. As she approached the kitchen range to build a fire the floor gave way and she was hurled into the cellar with much force. Fortunately for her, the stove in which there was fire, caught in a gasp and was stopped in its descent. If it had fallen upon her she might have been killed, as she was directly beneath it. Dr. John D. Moore dressed her injuries, which are not serious.

Minister Show.

The members of the Young Men's Republican Club are arranging for a minstrel show, and rehearsals are now in progress. The Young Men's Club has some excellent talent among its membership, and some of them are expected in minstrel work.